



US010052007B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Li et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,052,007 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 21, 2018**

(54) **FLOOR CLEANER, CLEANING ROLLER ASSEMBLY, AND SPONGE ROLLER**

(71) Applicant: **HiZero Technologies Co., Ltd.**,
Shenzhen (CN)

(72) Inventors: **Yang Li**, Guangdong (CN); **Yong Zhang**, Shenzhen (CN)

(73) Assignee: **HIZERO TECHNOLOGIES CO., LTD.**, Shenzhen (CN)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/122,437**

(22) PCT Filed: **Oct. 10, 2015**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/CN2015/091683**

§ 371 (c)(1),

(2) Date: **Aug. 30, 2016**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2017/059601**

PCT Pub. Date: **Apr. 13, 2017**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2018/0199787 A1 Jul. 19, 2018

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A47L 5/30 (2006.01)

A47L 13/144 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **A47L 13/144** (2013.01); **A47L 11/282** (2013.01); **A47L 13/16** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC **A47L 11/4088**; **A47L 11/282**;
A47L 11/4022; **A47L 11/4027**; **A47L 11/4041**

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,881,461 A * 4/1959 Parker B05C 17/0227
15/230.11

4,959,628 A 9/1990 MacGregor
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 2241510 Y 12/1996

CN 2794412 Y 7/2006

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

International Search Report and Written Opinion cited in international application No. PCT/CN2015/091683 dated Jul. 14, 2016 15 pgs.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Shay Karls

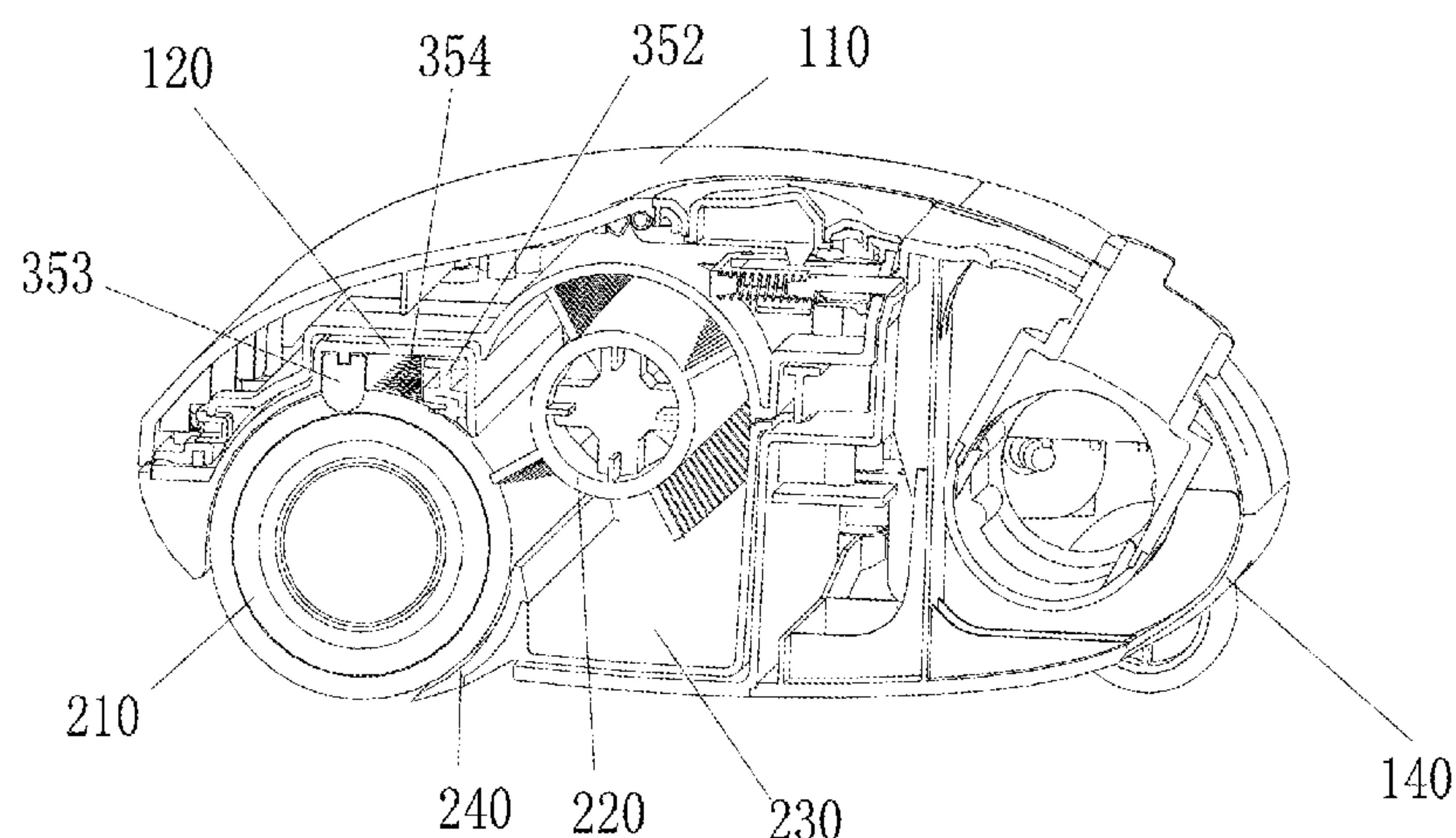
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Cooper Legal Group, LLC

(57)

ABSTRACT

A sponge roller, a cleaning roller assembly, and a floor cleaner. The sponge roller includes an outer layer and an inner layer. The outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer; the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge, and the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge. The sponge roller can be made with a large thickness, thus improving the cleaning capacity of the cleaner. The water is mainly stored in the outer layer, so it can be squeezed out without the exertion of much more external force, and thus the resistance against the rotation of the sponge roller is negligible, thus saving the energy consumption.

20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



(51)	Int. Cl. <i>A47L 13/16</i> <i>A47L 11/282</i>		(2006.01) (2006.01)	EP	2801311	A1	11/2014
				JP	S49-5735	A	1/1974
				JP	2012254208	A	12/2012
				WO	2008095054	A1	8/2008

(56) **References Cited**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

9,682,399	B2 *	6/2017	Utterback	B05C 17/0207
9,713,411	B2 *	7/2017	Gardner	A47L 11/4036
2001/0008036	A1 *	7/2001	Worwag	A47L 9/02
					15/387
2004/0078908	A1	4/2004	Jean, Jr. et al.		
2009/0276975	A1	11/2009	Vines		
2015/0082579	A1	3/2015	Lin		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN	203263303	U	11/2013
CN	203458324	U	3/2014
CN	203506629	U	4/2014

Japanese Office Action cited in Japanese Application No. 2017-563376 dated Jun. 8, 2018, 6 pgs.
International Search Report and Written Opinion cited in international application No. PCT/CN2015/091682 dated Jul. 20, 2015, 17 pgs.
International Search Report and Written Opinion cited in international application No. PCT/CN2015/091685 dated Jul. 20, 2015, 16 pgs.
Non-Final Office Action cited in U.S. Appl. No. 15/122,432 dated May 7, 2018, 7 pgs.
Notice of Allowance cited in U.S. Appl. No. 15/122,432 dated May 25, 2018, 11 pgs.

* cited by examiner

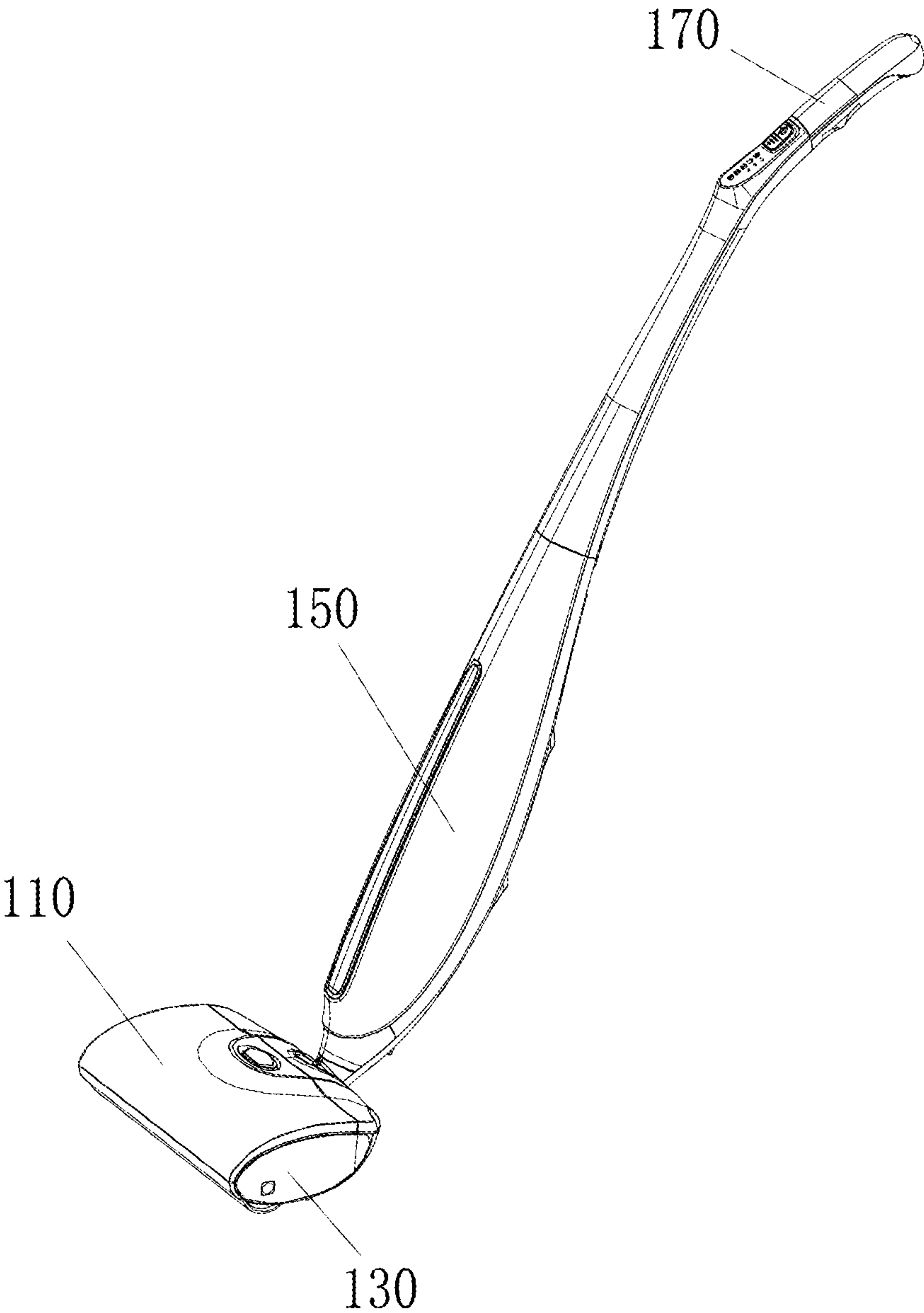


FIG. 1

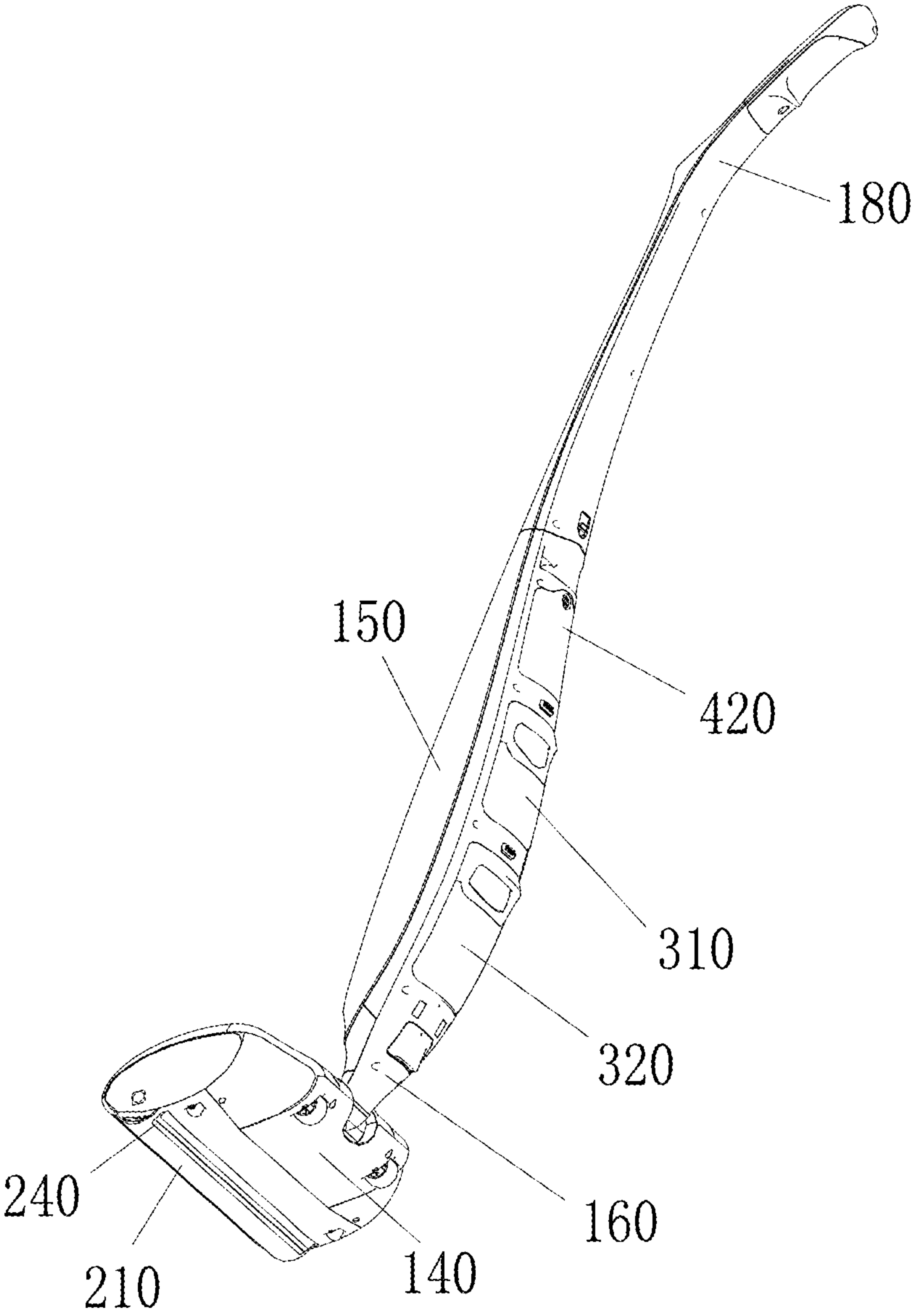


FIG. 2

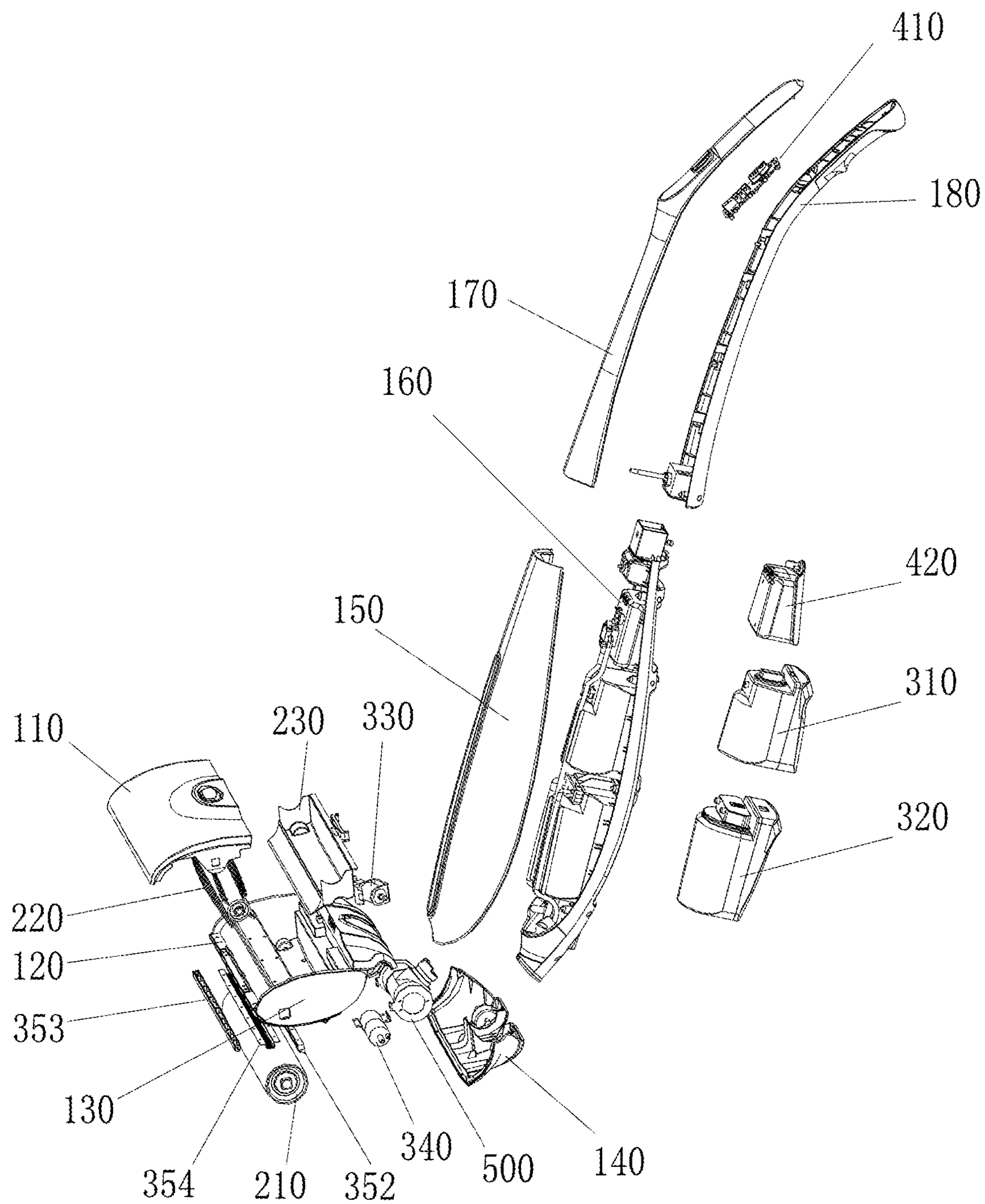


FIG. 3

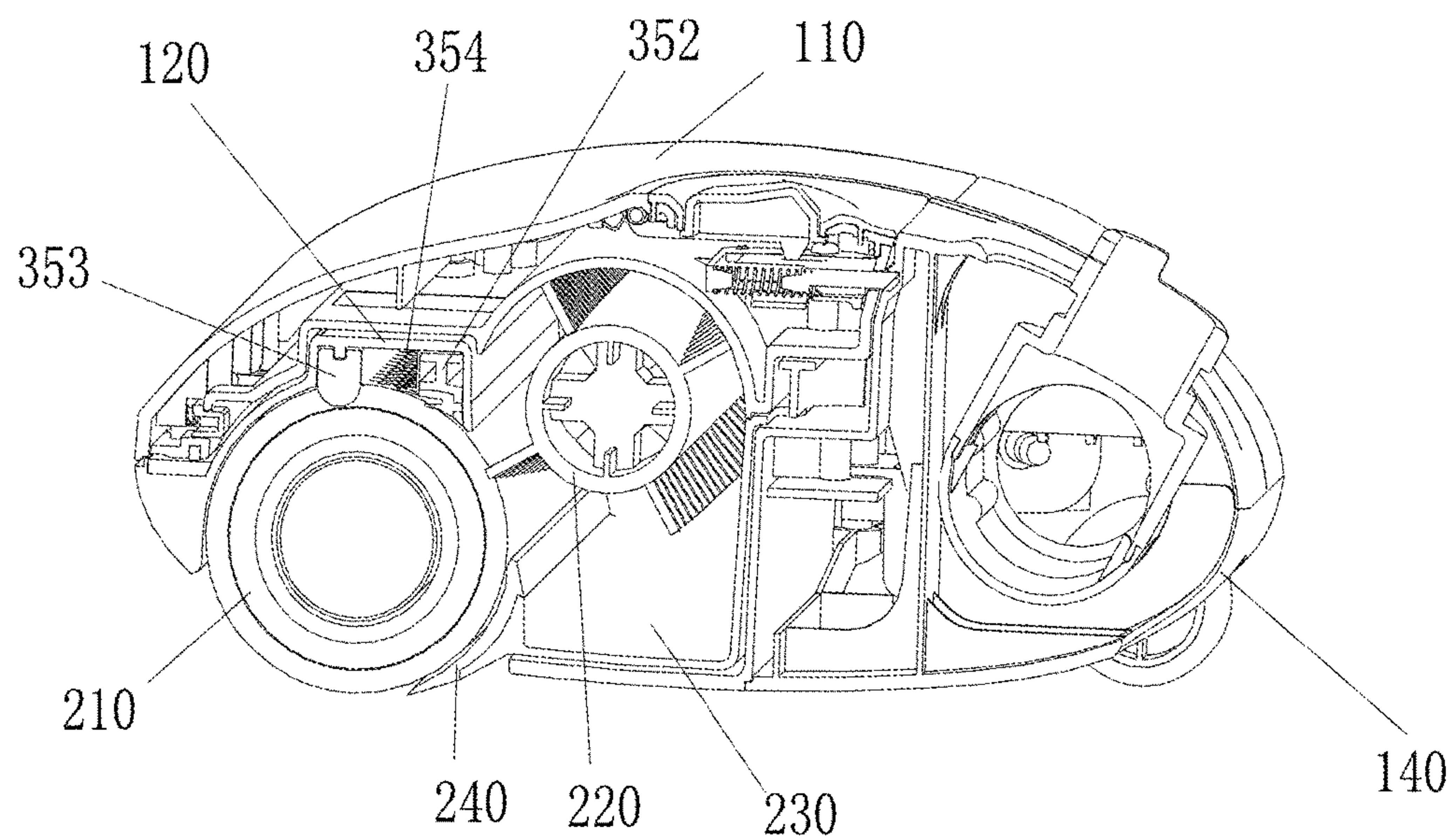


FIG. 4

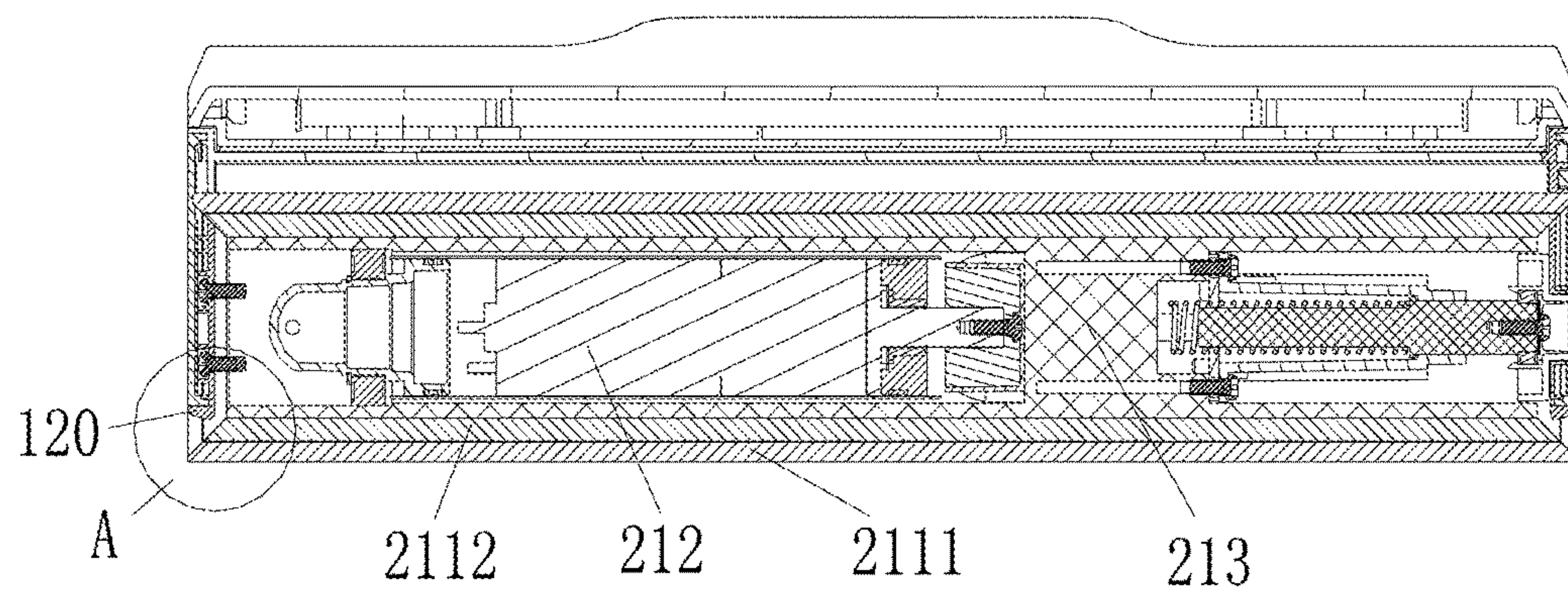


FIG. 5

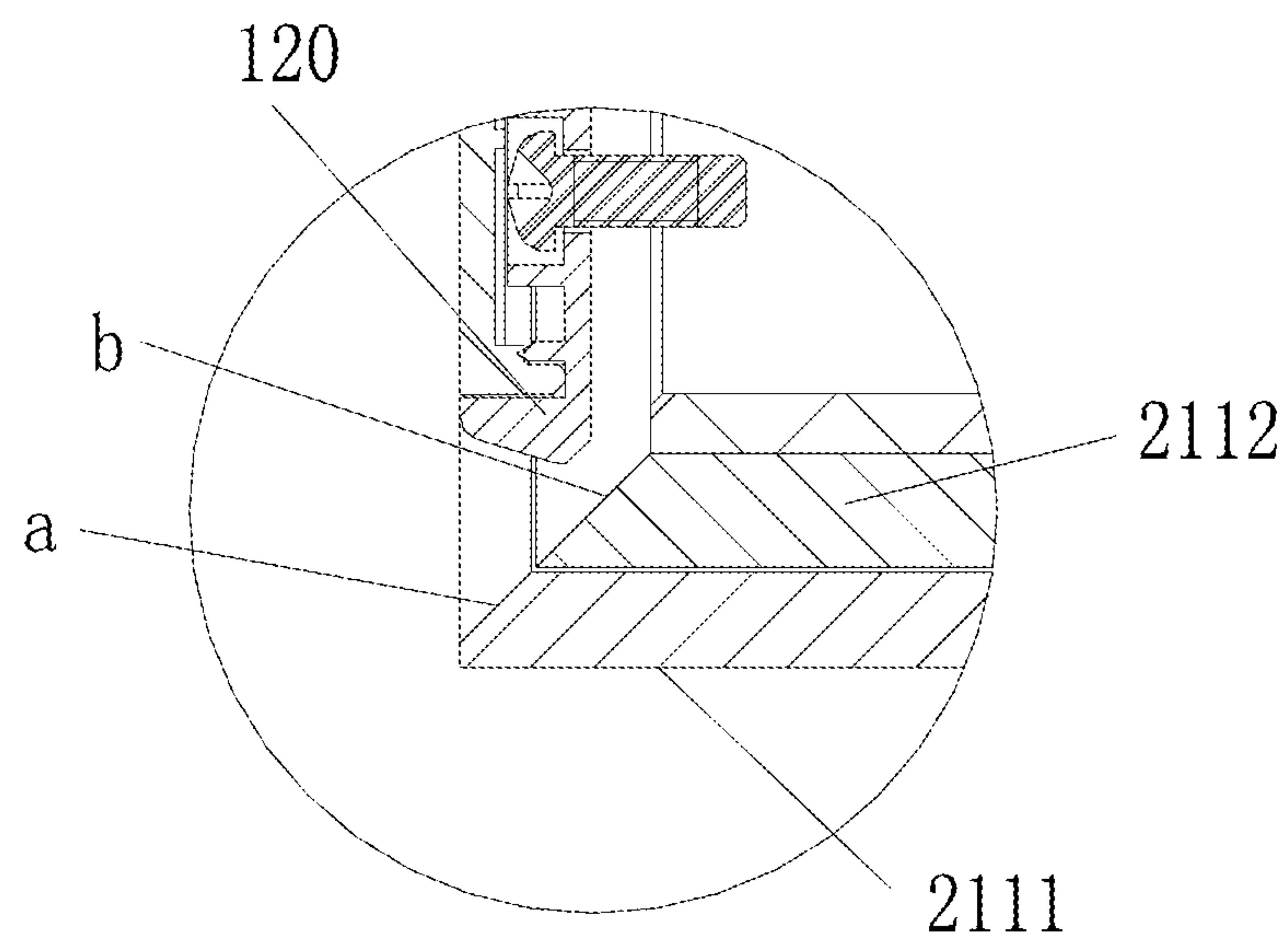


FIG. 6

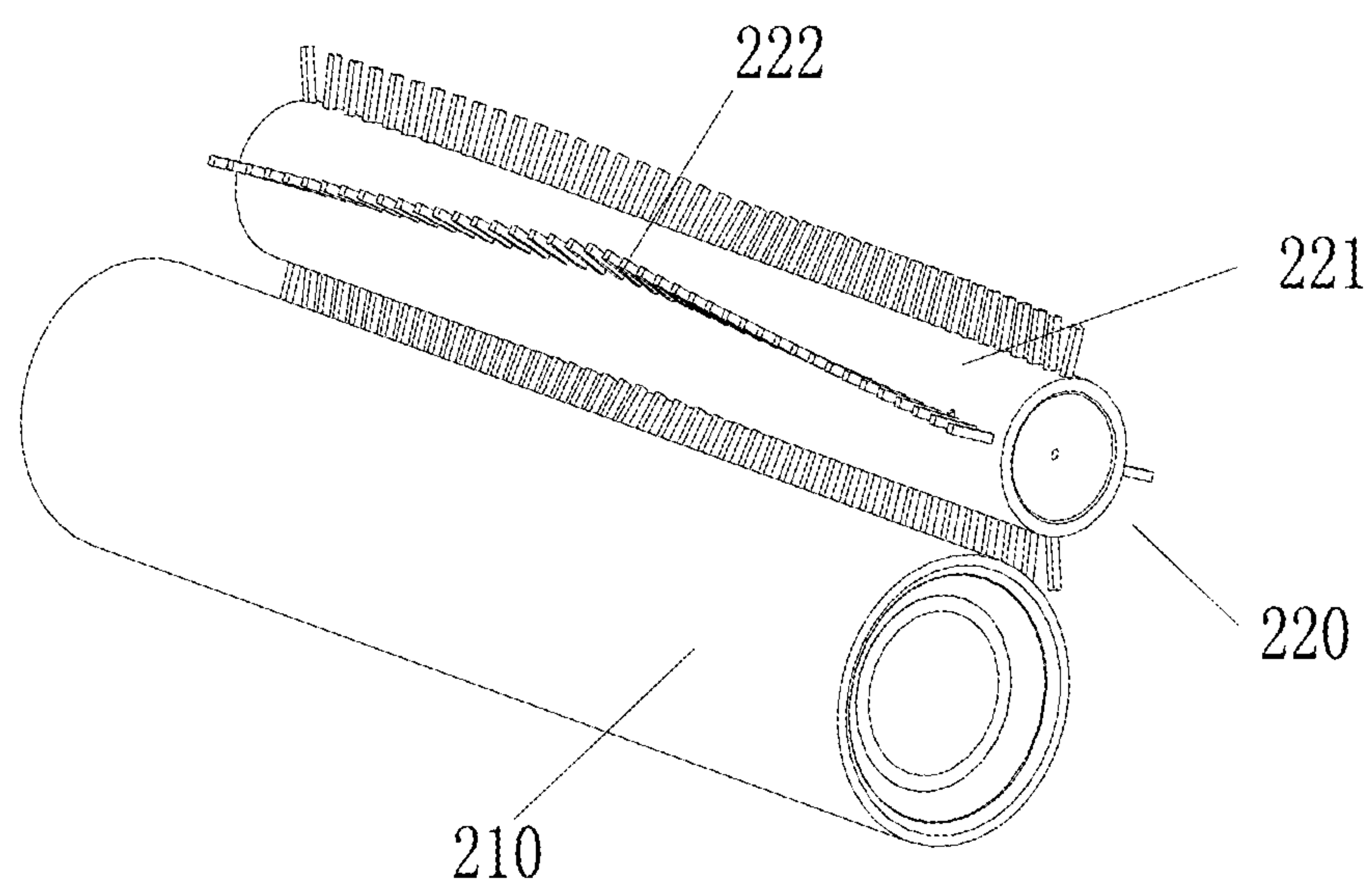


FIG. 7

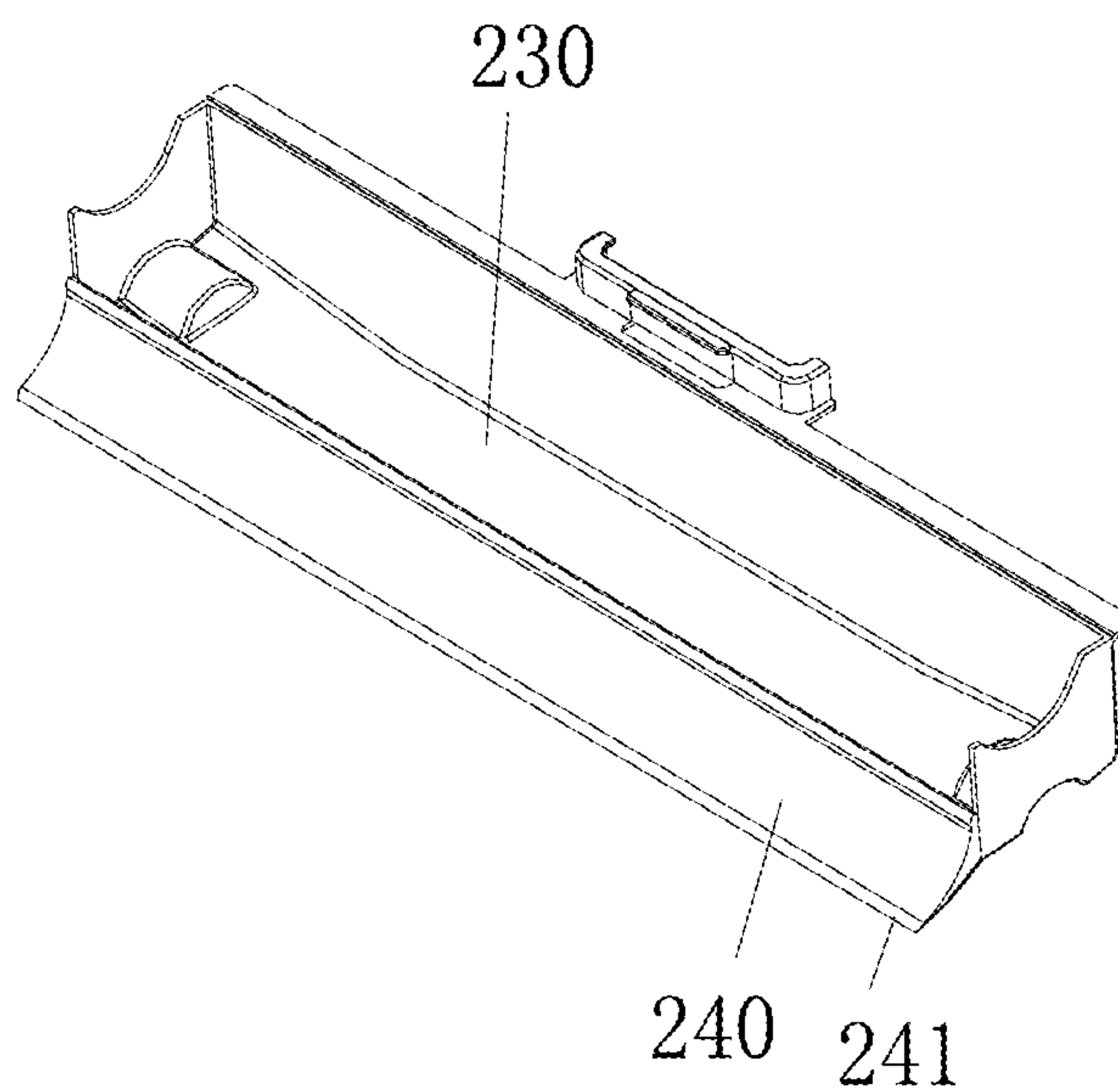


FIG. 8

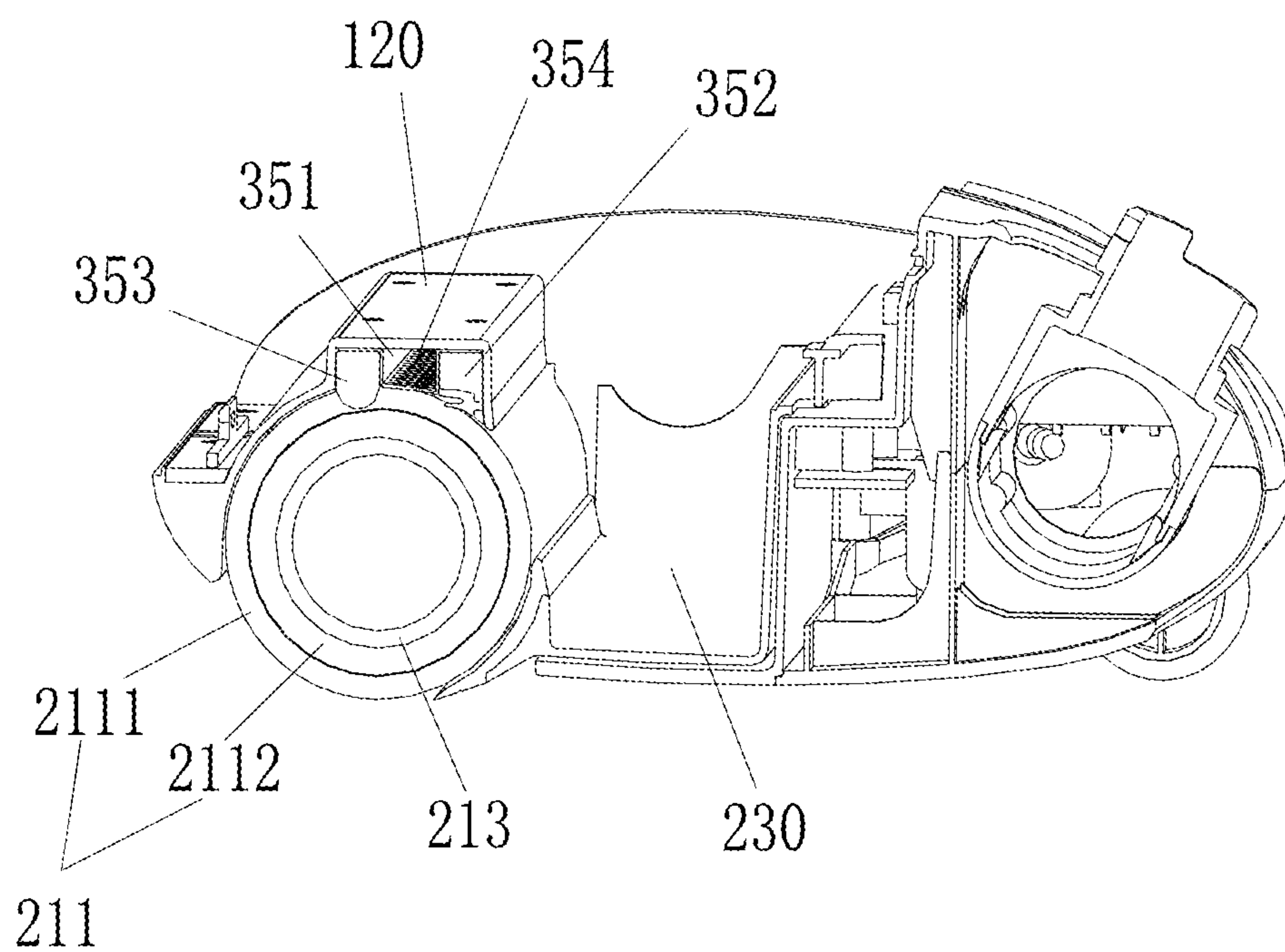


FIG. 9

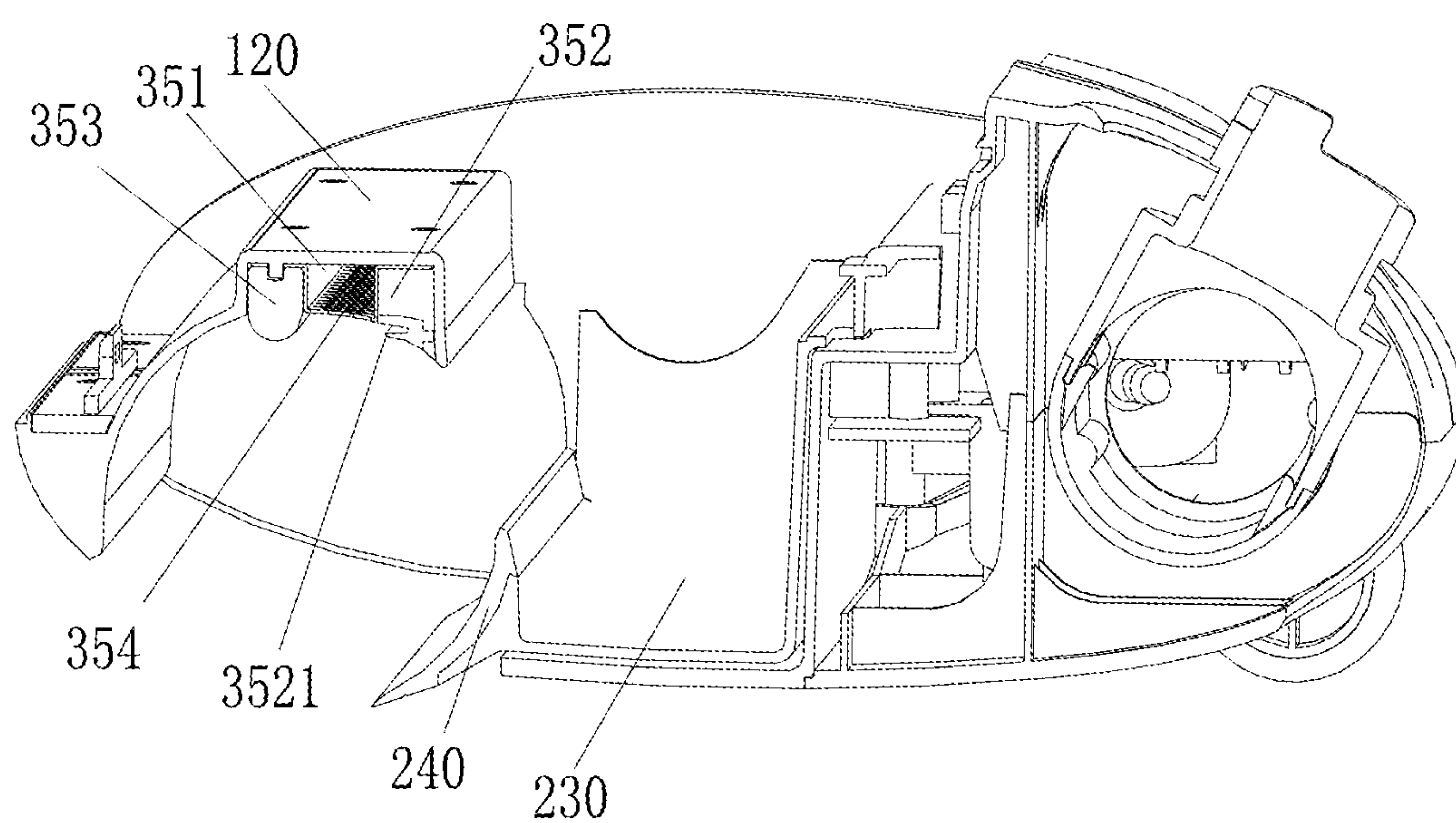


FIG. 10

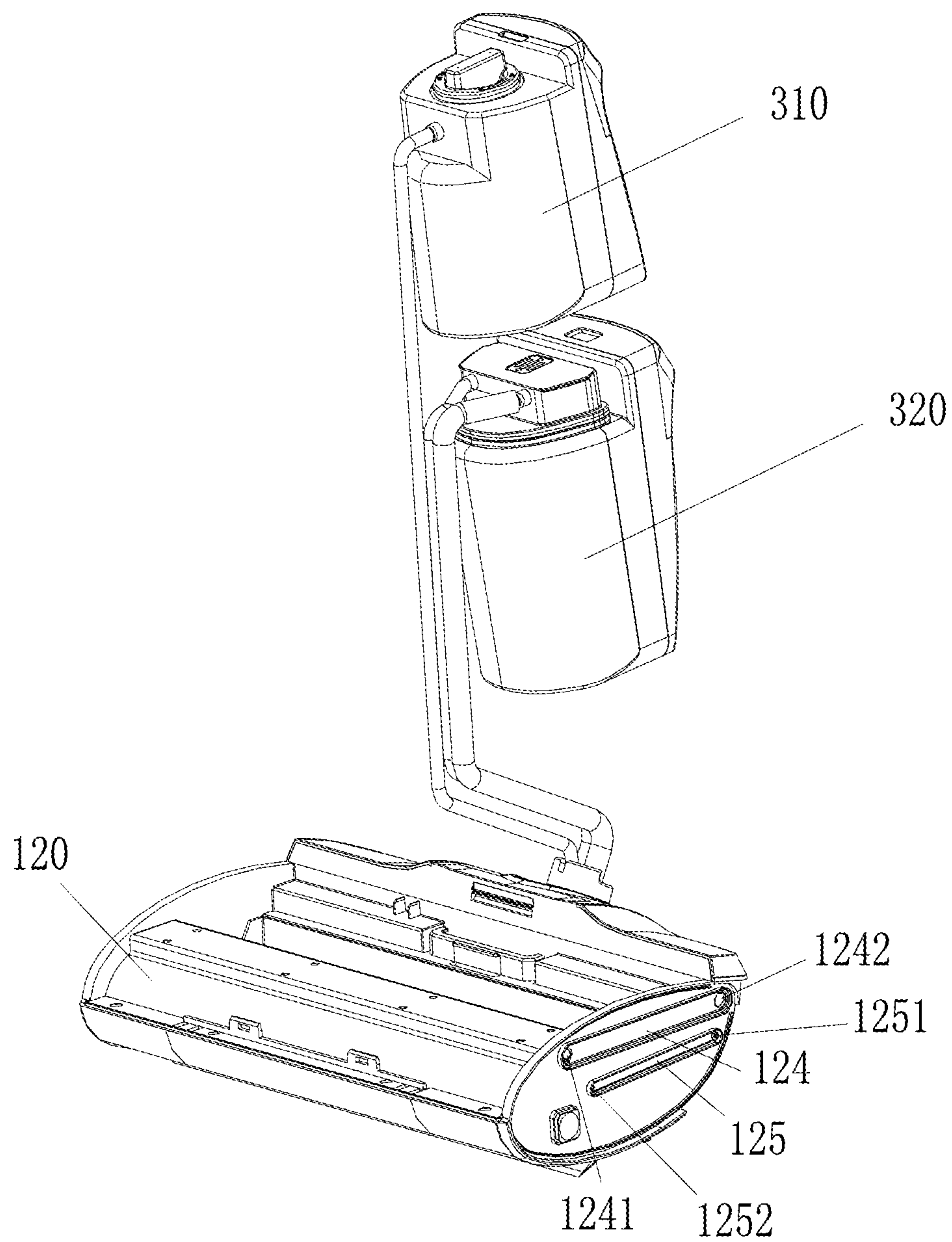


FIG. 11

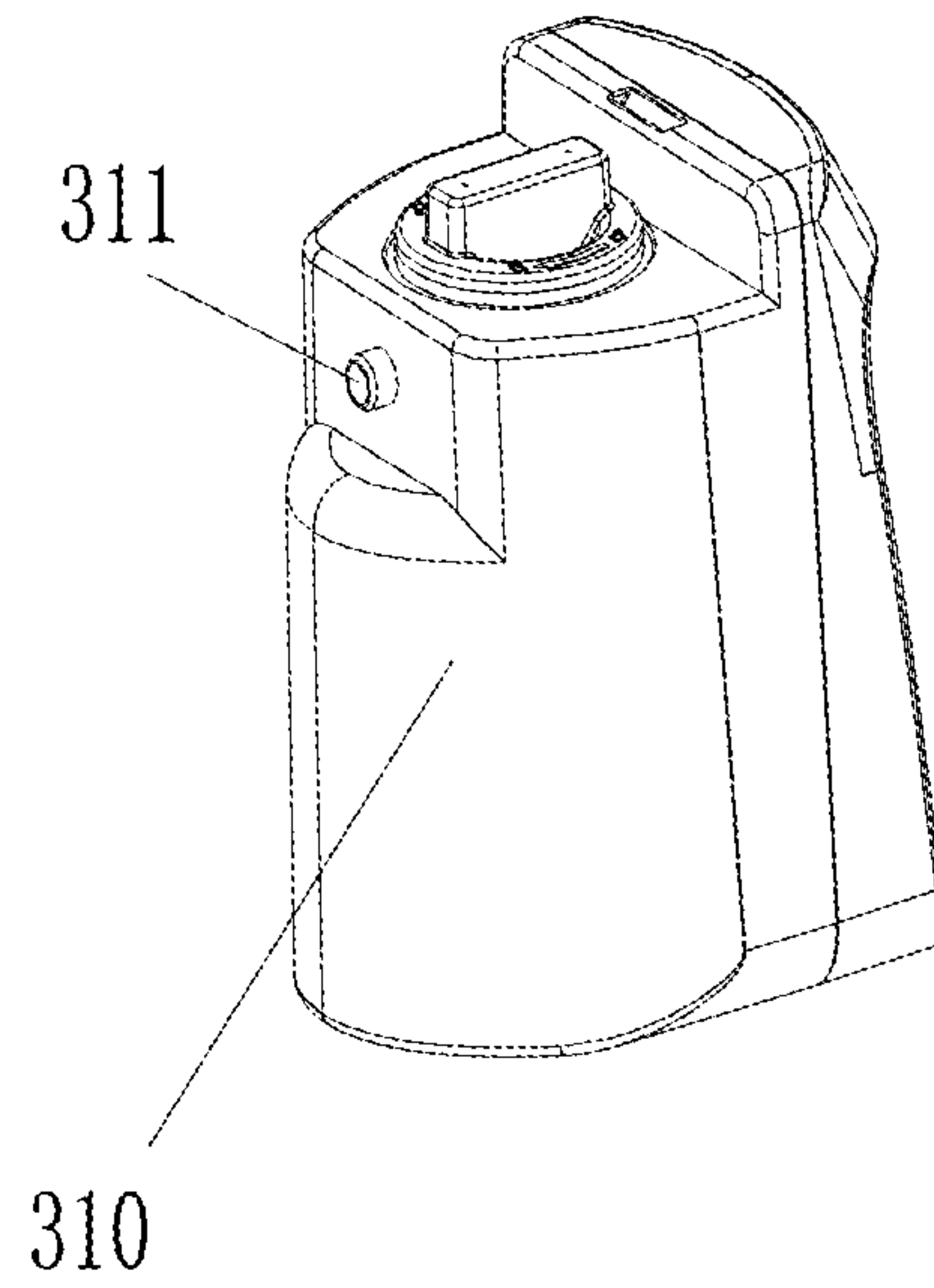


FIG. 12

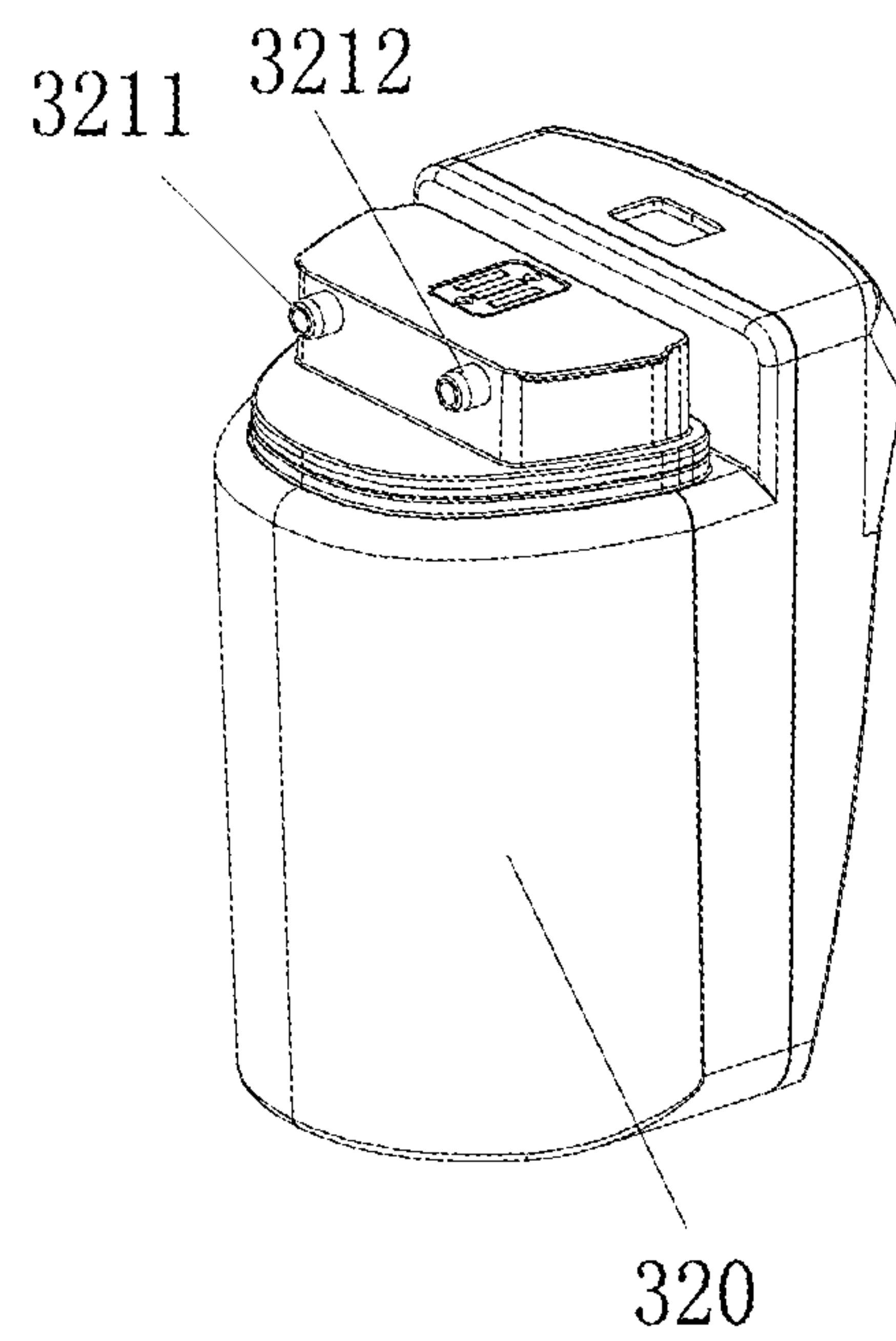


FIG. 13

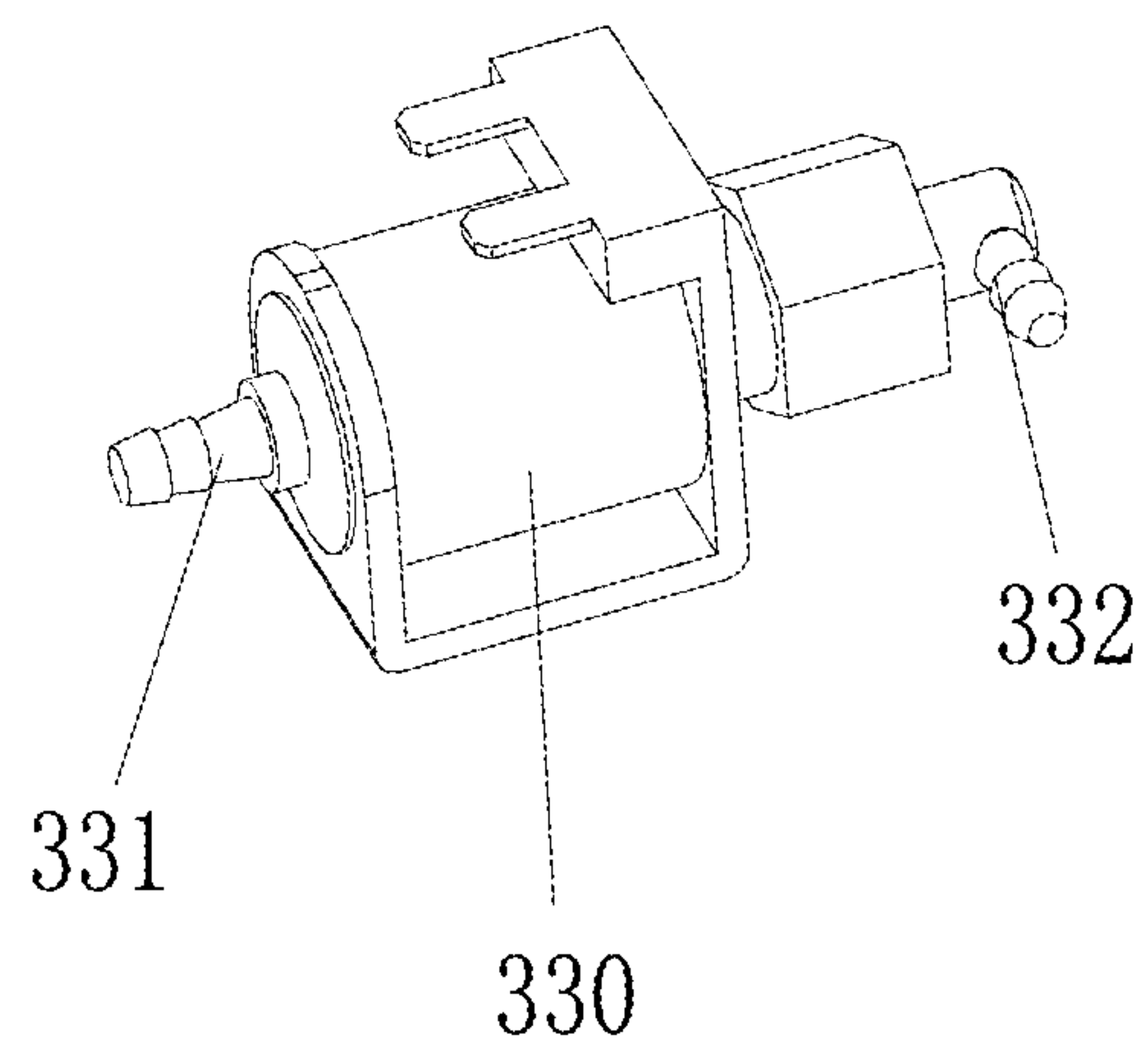


FIG. 14

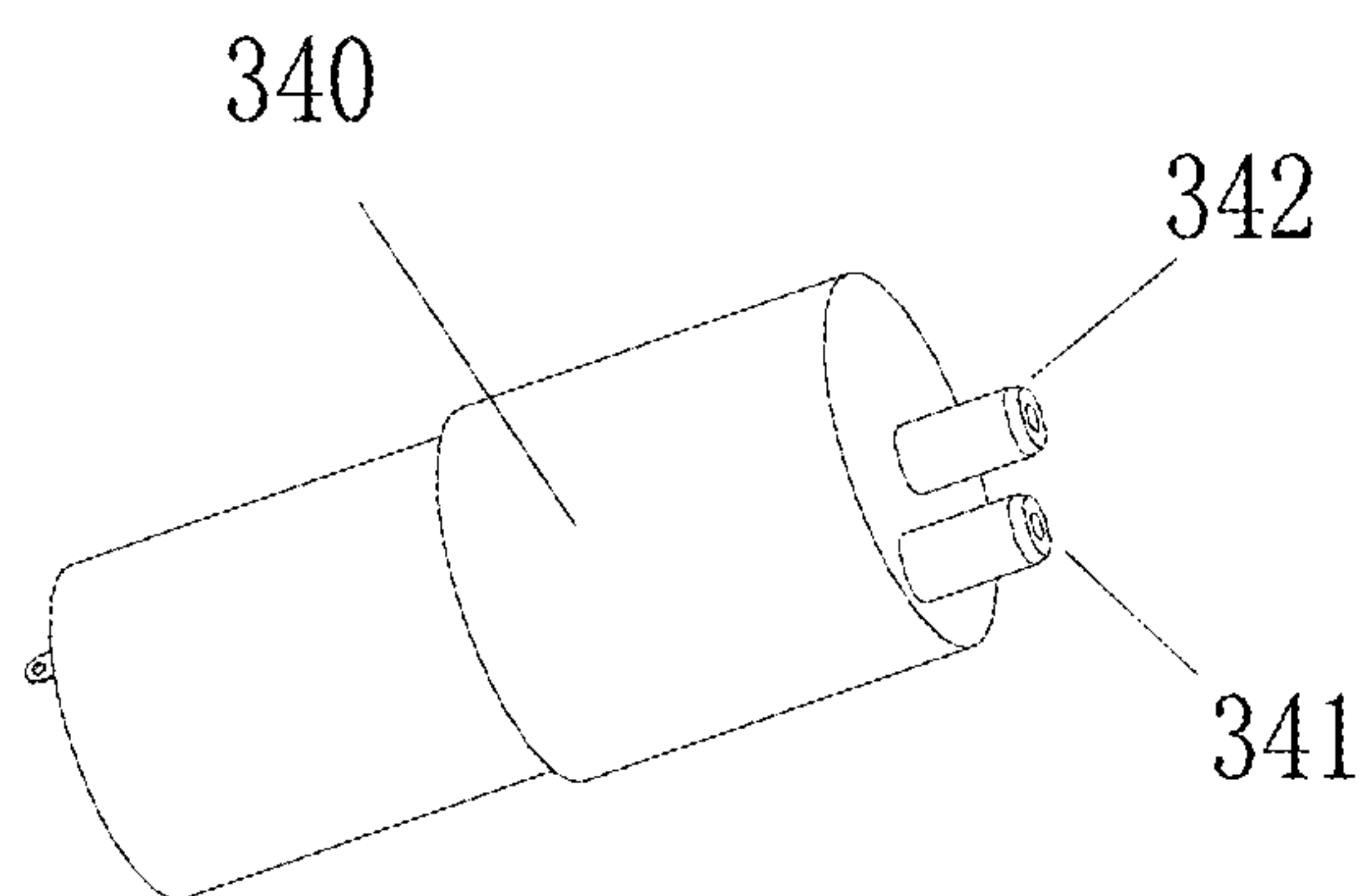


FIG. 15

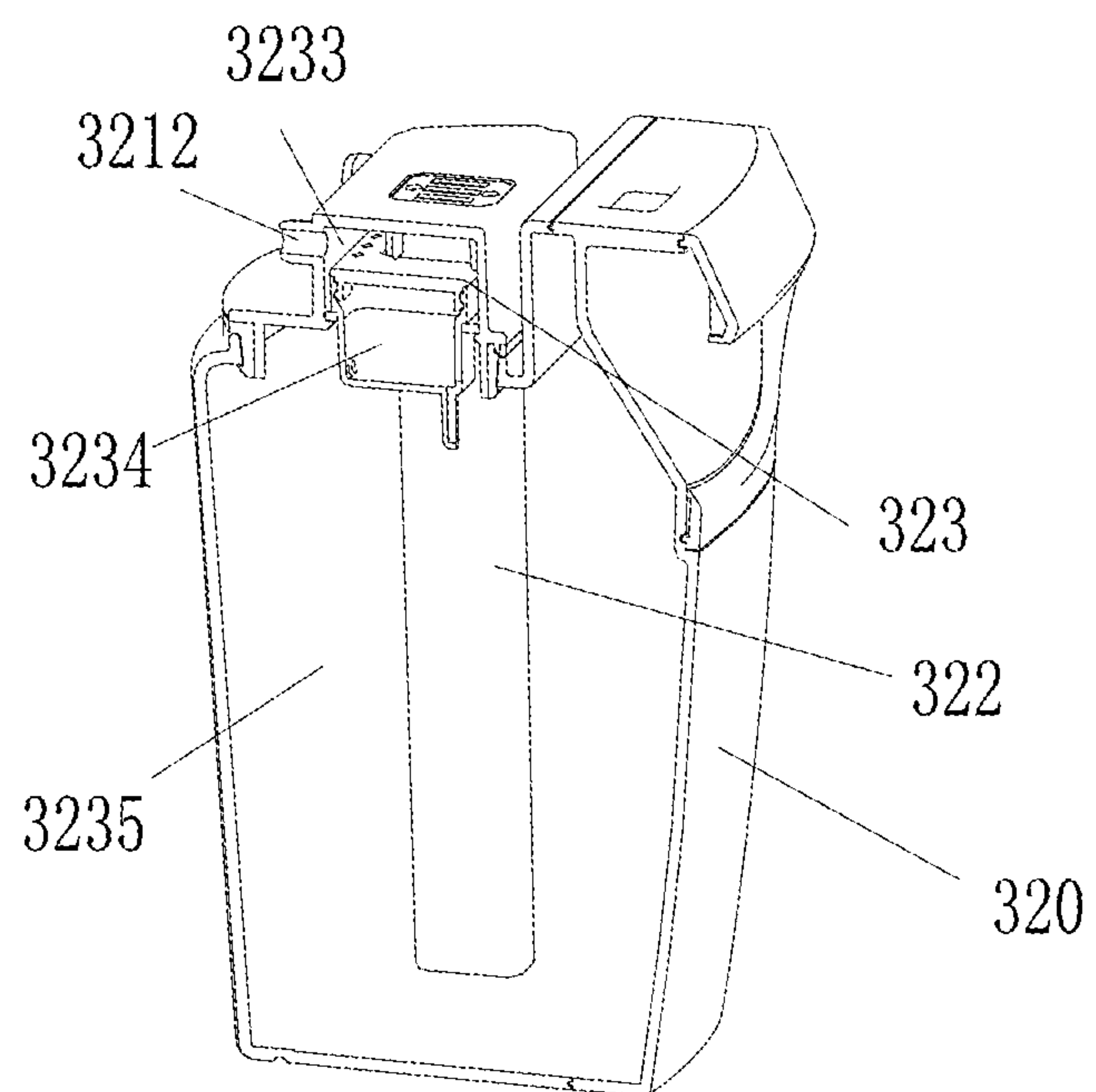


FIG. 16

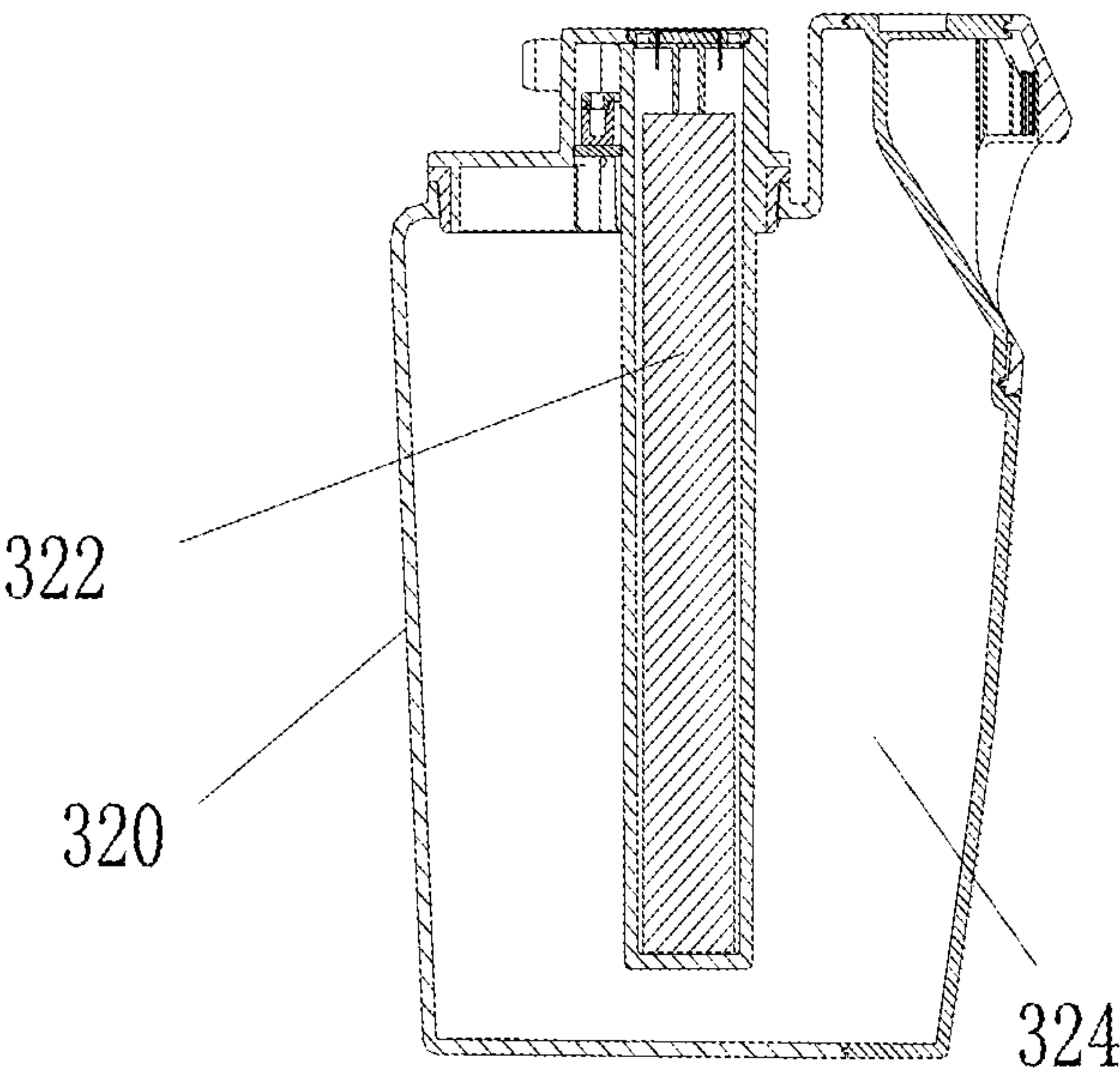


FIG. 17

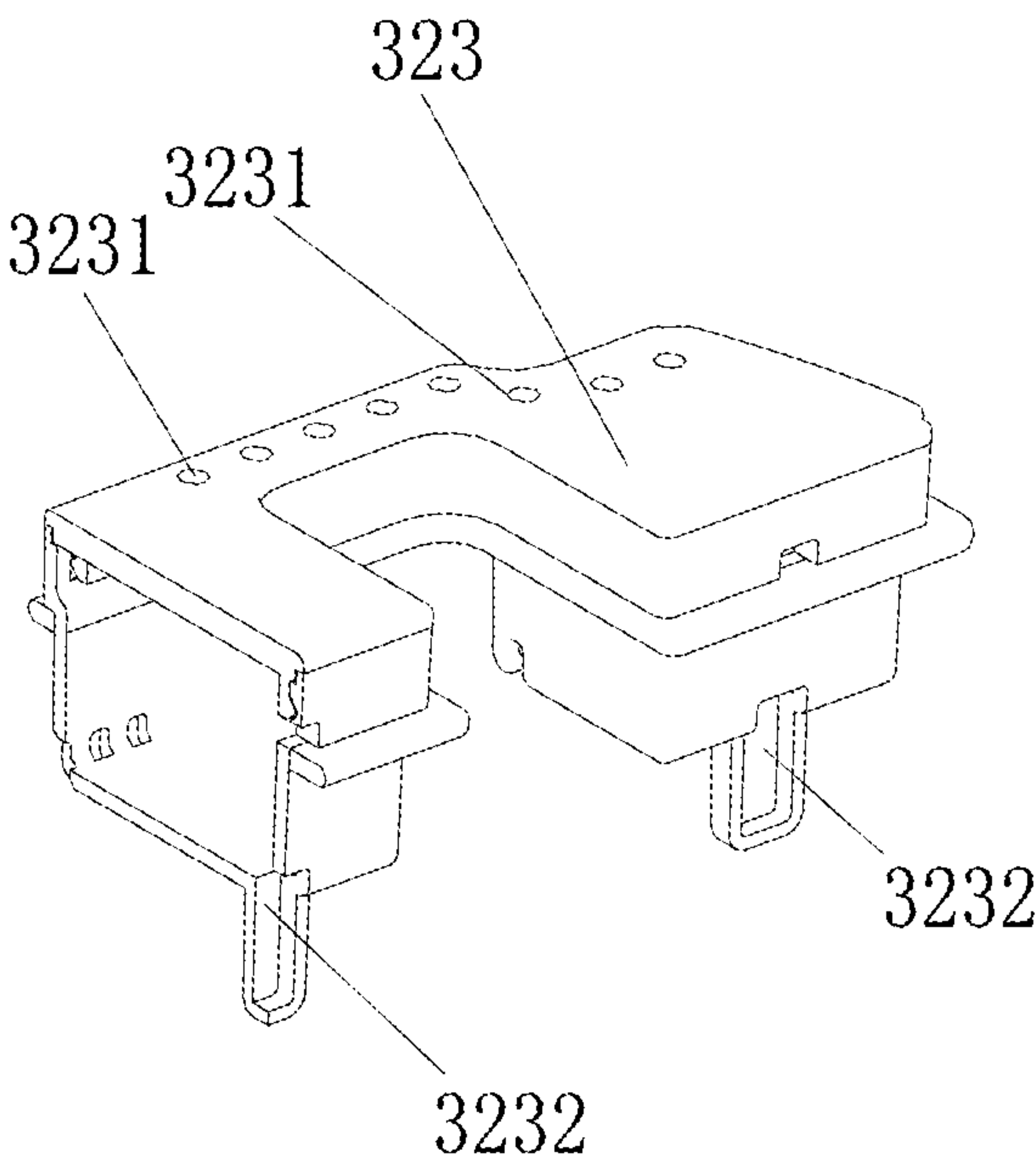


FIG. 18

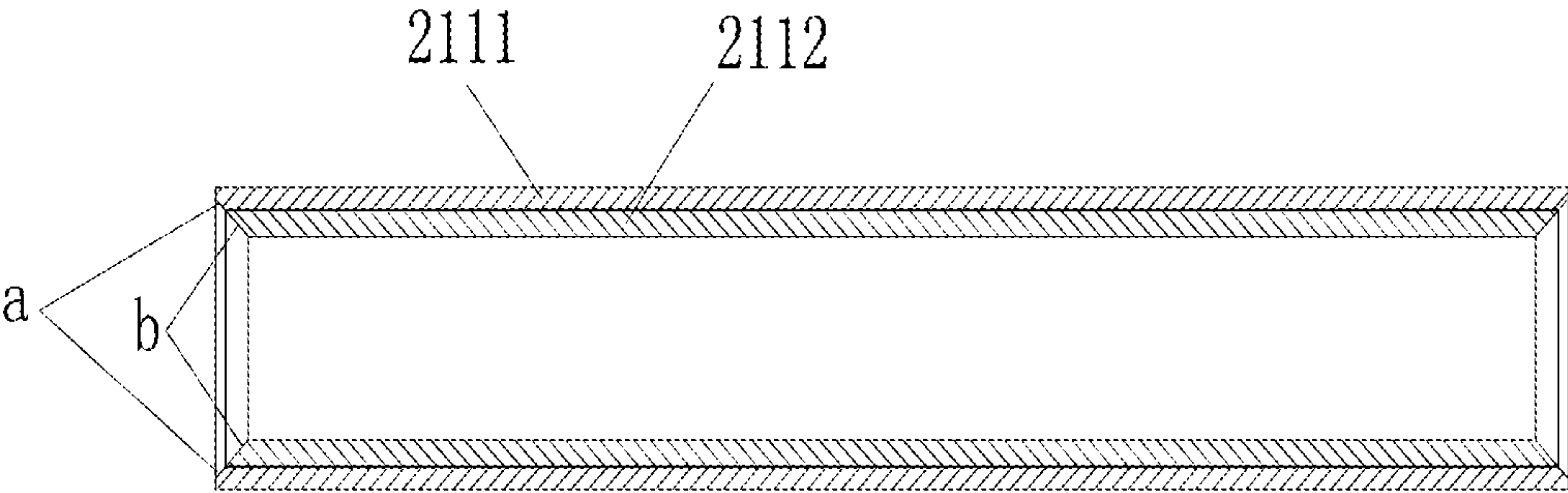


FIG. 19

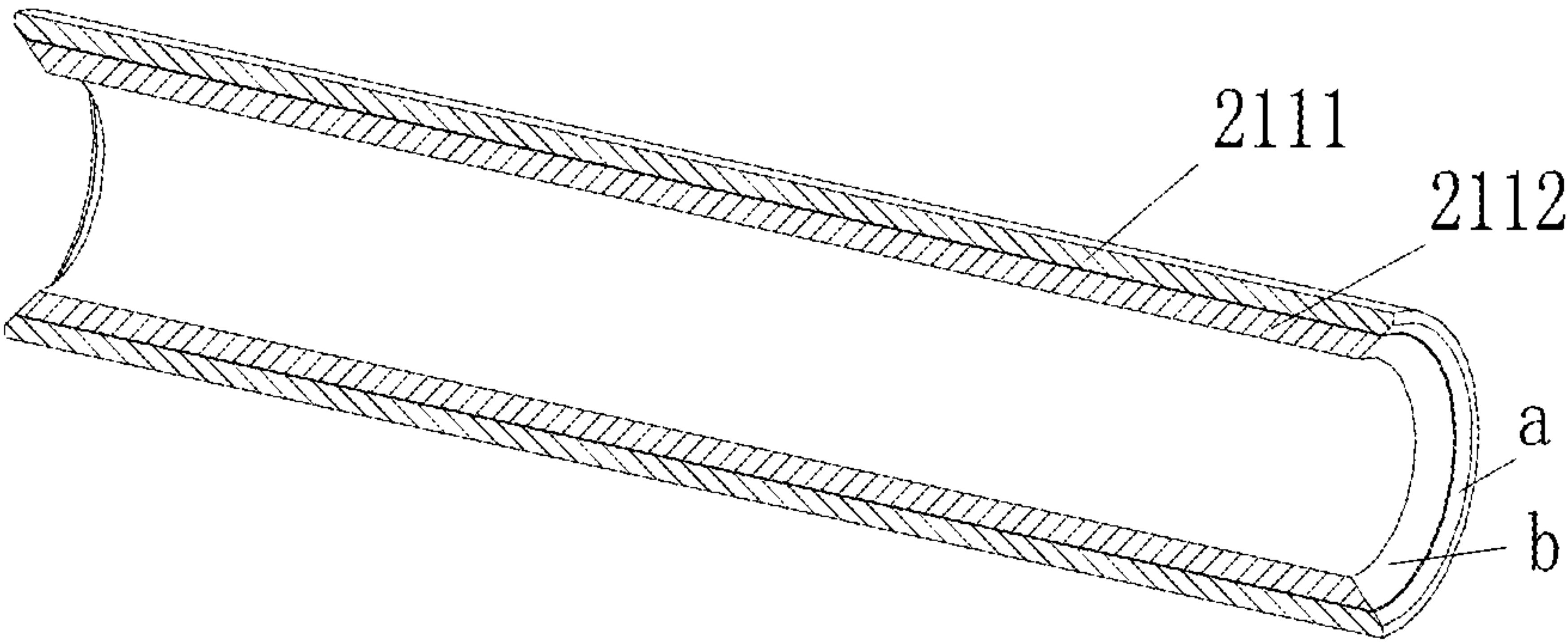


FIG. 20

1

**FLOOR CLEANER, CLEANING ROLLER
ASSEMBLY, AND SPONGE ROLLER**

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The disclosure relates to cleaning equipment, and more particularly to a sponge roller of a floor cleaner.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Conventional cleaners for cleaning ground include brooms, mops and floor wipers, all of which are manual tools. With the development of science and technology, people pose high requirements for cleaners, and vacuum cleaner is developed, which operates to adsorb waste and dust on the ground through negative pressure produced by electric power. However, due to the limitation of the working principle, the vacuum cleaner fails to eliminate the waste and stains firmly attached to the ground. As a result, a new generation of cleaners for cleaning ground is provided. The new generation of cleaners includes a motor and a cleaning roller which is driven by the motor to clean the ground. The cleaning roller is often made of sponge. The cleaning capability of the cleaners is proportional to the thickness of the sponge roller, the thicker the sponge roller, the stronger the cleaning capability. The new generation of cleaners is also equipped with a water supply system and a water channel for washing the cleaning roller, thus cleaning the ground completely.

After being washed, water in the sponge roller is required to be squeezed out using a squeezing structure, or the water tends to flow to the ground when the sponge roller is squeezed on the ground. On the one hand, the action force the squeezing structure exerts on the sponge roller is favorable to the removal of the water, on the other hand, the action force is resistant to the rolling of the sponge roller. That is to say, for a thick sponge roller, when the squeezing force is too small, the water cannot be removed, when the squeezing force is too large, the resistance to the sponge roller is large, which causes the waste of the energy.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In view of the above-described problems, it is one objective of the disclosure to provide a sponge roller, a cleaning roller assembly, and a floor cleaner comprising the cleaning roller assembly.

To achieve the above objective, in accordance with one embodiment of the disclosure, there is provided a sponge roller, comprising an outer layer and an inner layer; wherein the outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer; the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge, and the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge.

As an improvement of the disclosure, a radial thickness of the outer layer is smaller than that of the inner layer.

As an improvement of the disclosure, at least one end of the outer layer and one end of the inner layer are a tapered surface along an axial direction of the sponge roller.

The disclosure also provides a cleaning roller assembly, comprising

a power unit,
a sleeve barrel, and a sponge roller; wherein the sleeve barrel is sleeved on the power unit;

the sponge roller comprises an outer layer and an inner layer; the inner layer is sleeved on the sleeve barrel; the outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer; the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge, and the outer layer is made

2

of absorbent sponge; the sleeve barrel and the sponge roller are driven by the power unit to rotate to clean the ground.

As an improvement of the disclosure, a radial thickness of the outer layer is smaller than that of the inner layer.

As an improvement of the disclosure, at least one end of the outer layer and one end of the inner layer are a tapered surface along an axial direction of the sponge roller.

The disclosure further provides a floor cleaner, comprising

a base shell and

a cleaning roller assembly. The cleaning roller assembly comprises a power unit, a sleeve barrel, and a sponge roller; the sleeve barrel is sleeved on the power unit; the sponge roller comprises an outer layer and an inner layer; the inner layer is sleeved on the sleeve barrel; the outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer; the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge, and the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge and is disposed on the base shell; and the sleeve barrel and the sponge roller are driven by the power unit to rotate to clean the ground.

As an improvement of the disclosure, radial thickness of the outer layer is smaller than that of the inner layer.

As an improvement of the disclosure, at least one end of the outer layer and one end of the inner layer are a tapered surface along an axial direction of the sponge roller, and an outer edge of the tapered surface stretch into one side of the base shell facing the ground.

Advantages of the cleaner for cleaning the ground are summarized as follows. The sponge roller comprises an outer layer and an inner layer. The outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer; the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge, and the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge. The sponge roller can be made with a large thickness, thus improving the cleaning capacity of the cleaner. The water is mainly stored in the outer layer, so it can be squeezed out without the exertion of much more external force, and thus the resistance against the rotation of the sponge roller is negligible, thus saving the energy consumption.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a floor cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a floor cleaner in FIG. 1 from another angle of view;

FIG. 3 is an exploded view of a floor cleaner in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view of a base of a floor cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of a cleaning roller assembly of a floor cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged view of part A in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram showing the cooperation of a cleaning roller and a clearing component of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a trash bin of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of a water channel (comprising a cleaning roller assembly) of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram of a water channel (not comprising a cleaning roller assembly) of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram of a water supply system of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of a clean water tank of a cleaner of the disclosure;

3

FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram of a wastewater tank of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 14 is a schematic diagram of a water pump of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 15 is a schematic diagram of an air pump of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 16 is a sectional view of a wastewater tank of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 17 is a sectional view of a wastewater tank of a cleaner of the disclosure from another angle of view;

FIG. 18 is a sectional view of a splash-proof member of a cleaner of the disclosure;

FIG. 19 is a sectional view of a sponge roller of a cleaner of the disclosure; and

FIG. 20 is a sectional view of a sponge roller of a cleaner of the disclosure from another angle of view.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Example 1

The disclosure provides a cleaner for cleaning the ground.

The cleaner for cleaning the ground comprises a shell assembly, a cleaning mechanism, a water supply system, a control unit, and an adaptor component.

The shell assembly is a support of the cleaner, and comprises two parts, one is a base, the other is a handle. The base and the handle are connected by the adaptor component. The connection mode is flexible, so that the user can conveniently operate the cleaner with different angles.

The cleaning mechanism is a key part to clean the ground and is disposed on the base. The water supply system comprises a clean water tank and a wastewater tank. The clean water tank is configured to store clean water and communicates with the cleaning mechanism. Clean water is transported to the cleaning mechanism through a power unit to clean the cleaning mechanism. The wastewater tank is configured to store wastewater which is discharged from the cleaning mechanism communicating with the wastewater tank. The wastewater produced by the cleaning mechanism is restored in the wastewater tank via another power unit, thus preventing the wastewater from leaking out of the cleaner.

The control unit comprises a control circuit and a circuit board loading the control circuit. The control unit controls the operation of the cleaner, such as the operation and halt of the cleaning mechanism, the opening and closing of the water supply system, so as to achieve the man-machine interaction.

For better understanding the disclosure, the example defines where the base is located is the front part of the cleaner and the handle is the rear part of the cleaner.

Specifically, as shown in FIGS. 1-3, the base comprises a turnable cover 110, a base shell 120, side shells 130, and a rear shell 140. The turnable cover 110 is disposed above the base shell 120 and may be flipped to open with respect to the base shell 120. The rear shell 140 is disposed at the lower rear of the base shell 120, and the side shells 130 are clamped at two sides of the base shell 120.

Also, as shown in FIGS. 1-3, the handle comprises a handle portion and a body portion. The handle portion comprises a top handle part 170 and a rear handle part 180. The body portion comprises a top body part 150 and a rear body part 160. The handle portion is mounted on the body

4

portion. The body portion is connected to base through the adaptor component 500 to realize the connection between the handle and the base.

As shown in FIGS. 3-6, the cleaning mechanism comprises a cleaning roller assembly 210, a clearing component 220 operating to remove trash on the cleaning roller assembly, and a trash bin 230 for collecting the trash on the cleaning roller assembly.

The cleaning roller assembly 210 comprises a cleaning roller. The cleaning roller rollers on the ground to clear the trash. Optionally, the cleaning roller is made of flexible material, for example, in this example, the cleaning roller is a sponge roller 211.

The cleaning roller assembly 210 further comprises a sleeve barrel 213 loading the sponge roller 211, and a power unit 212 for driving the sponge roller 211 and the sleeve barrel 213.

The power unit 212 is disposed on the side wall of the base shell 120 and is locked using a bolt. The side wall is vertical to the ground. The sleeve barrel 213 of the sponge roller 211 is sleeved on the power unit 212 and is replaceable. The sponge roller 211 is sleeved on the sleeve barrel 213, and the power unit 212 is disposed in the sleeve barrel 213. The power unit 212 is optionally a motor, and the opening and closing of the power unit 212 is controlled by the control unit.

As shown in FIG. 4, the trash bin 230 is disposed at the lower rear of the sponge roller 211. Without affecting the rotation of the sponge roller 211, the trash bin can be close to the sponge roller 211 as possibly, so as to prevent the trash from leaking from the gap between the sponge roller 211 and the trash bin 230.

As shown in FIG. 7, the clearing component comprises a rotation body 221 and a plurality of clearing elements 222 disposed on the rotation body 221. The rotation body 221 is driven by a power unit (the power unit can be a motor, which is not shown in the drawings) to rotate along with the sponge roller 211 (clockwise or anticlockwise). The clearing elements 222 are strip-shaped, such as hair brush or tooth structures, and rotate with the rotation body 221. The gap between the clearing elements 222 and the sponge roller 211 is smaller than the volume of the trash or the clearing elements 222 and the sponge roller 211 directly contact with each other, so as to clear the trash on the sponge roller 211.

The clearing component 220 is disposed at the upper rear of the sponge roller 211, i.e., above the trash bin 230, so that the trash cleared from the sponge roller 211 falls into the trash bin 230.

To more efficiently clear the trash on the sponge roller 211, as shown in FIG. 7, the clearing elements 222 can be divided into at least two groups, each group comprises a plurality of clearing elements 222 which are disposed along the center line of rotation of the rotation body 221. The length of the clearing elements can be smaller than, larger than, or equal to the length of the sponge roller 211 along the center line of rotation of the rotation body 221.

As shown in FIG. 7, the clearing elements 222 can be aligned, or be disposed in the shape of wave. The latter can reduce the resistance of the clearing elements 222 against the sponge roller 211, thus saving the energy consumption.

Furthermore, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 8, to improve the cleaning effect, in the cleaning mechanism, a scraper 240 is disposed at the rear of the sponge roller 211. The scraper 240 comprises a flexible front end 241 made of, for example, rubber. The front end 241 is attached to the ground, thus preventing the trash from omitting from the lower part of the cleaner. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 10, a gap exists between

5

the scraper **240** and the sponge roller **211**. The outer wall of the scraper **240** facing the sponge roller **211** is designed as an arc, and thus the gap operates as a guide channel to collect the trash.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **4**, **9** and **11**, the water supply system comprises a washing chamber, a clean water tank **310**, a clean water supply device (for example, water pump **330**), a wastewater tank **320**, and a wastewater recovery device (for example, air pump **340**).

The washing chamber is disposed on the rotation path of the sponge roller **211** and coordinates with the sponge roller **211** in a sealing mode. The washing chamber is filled with water to wash the sponge roller **211**.

As shown in FIGS. **9** and **10**, the washing chamber is a water channel, or other chambers having a different structure. Part of the base shell **120** (can be regarded as the shell of the water channel) is concave to form the water channel **351**, which simplifies the structure of the cleaner. Optionally, the water channel **351** can be an individual structure.

The water channel **351** is pressed on the sponge roller **211** in an overturn mode. The contact regions of the water channel **351** and the sponge roller **211** are sealed. Specifically, a seal element **352** and a water-squeezing element **353** are locked at two sides of the water channel **351** via bolts, respectively. The seal element **352** is behind the water-squeezing element **353**, that is to say, the sponge roller first moves to the seal element **352**, and then to the water-squeezing element **353**. The water-squeezing element **353** and the seal element **352** function as leak proof structures of the water channel **351** and the sponge roller **211**, respectively. Additionally, the water-squeezing element **353** operates to squeeze out the water in the sponge roller **211**. The wastewater squeezed out from the sponge roller **211** directly flows to the water channel **351**, and then collected by the wastewater tank **320**.

To improve the water squeezing effect, the water-squeezing element **353** is made of hard material, and the outer wall thereof contacting the sponge roller **211** is arc-shaped. For example, the water-squeezing elements **353** are strips or shaft-shaped structures made of rigid plastic or metal. The seal element **352** only has the sealing properties. As shown in FIG. **11**, the contact part **3521** of the seal element **352** and sponge roller **211** is a bulge made of elastic material, the elasticity thereof can prevent the trash on the sponge roller **211** from being squeezed out of the water channel **351**.

To prevent large solid waste on the sponge roller **211** from entering the water supply system to block the waterway, as shown in FIGS. **9** and **10**, a filter **354** is disposed in the water channel **351**. Two ends of the filter **354** are pressed in the water channel **351** by the water-squeezing element **353** and the seal element **352**.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **11**, **12** and **14**, the clean water outlet **311** of the clean water tank **310**, the clean water inlet (not shown in the drawings) of the water channel **351** communicate with the water pump **330**. The water inlet of the water pump communicates with the clean water outlet **311**, the water outlet **332** thereof communicates with the clean water inlet. Driven by the water pump **330**, clean water enters the water channel **351** via the clean water inlet to wash the sponge roller **211**, and then flows out from the wastewater outlet **1241** of the water channel **351**.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **11**, **13** and **15**, the wastewater outlet **1241**, the wastewater inlet **3211** of the wastewater tank **320** communicate with the air pump **340**. Specifically, the air pump **340** communicates with the air extraction opening **3212** of the wastewater tank **320**, and the wastewater outlet **1241** of the water channel **351** communicates with the

6

wastewater inlet **3211** of the wastewater tank **320**. The air pump **340** operates to extract the air in the wastewater tank **320** to produce a negative environment, which is favorable to the wastewater tank **320** to absorb wastewater from the water channel **351**. Employing the air pump **340** to absorb wastewater can flexibly control the wastewater tank **320** to absorb wastewater as needed.

Optionally, the clean water supply device is not limited to the water pump **330**, it can also be an air pump instead of the water pump **330**. The air pump communicates with the water channel **351**. Through pumping, the pressure in the water channel **351** is decreased, the water channel sucks up clean water from the clean water tank **310**. The working principle of the air pump is the same as the principle of the wastewater tank **320** for wastewater recovery.

Likewise, the wastewater recovery device is not limited to the air pump **340**, it can also be a water pump instead of the air pump **340**. The working principle of the water pump is the same as the principle of the clean water tank **310** for clean water supply.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **11**, **13** and **15**, because the air inlet **341** of the air pump **340** communicates with the wastewater tank **320**, when the air pump **340** is working and the wastewater tank **320** waggles, the produced foams tend to be sucked up by the air pump **340**.

To solve the problem, the wastewater tank **320** is modified. The wastewater tank **320** comprises a wastewater storage chamber and at least one splash-proof member. The splash-proof member separates the air extraction opening **3212** of the wastewater tank **320** from the storage chamber. The splash-proof member comprises an air vent communicating with the storage chamber. The air extraction opening **3212** of the wastewater tank **320** communicates with the air vent of the splash-proof member. Most of splashed foams are blocked by the splash-proof member, but the work of the air pump **340** is not affected. The more the splash-proof member, the better the splash-proof effect.

Specifically, as shown in FIGS. **16**, **17** and **18**, the wastewater tank **320** comprises a chamber having the wastewater inlet **3211** and the air extraction opening **3212**, a liquid level detector **322** and the splash-proof member **323**. The liquid level detector **322** and the splash-proof member **323** both are disposed in the chamber. The liquid level detector **322** operates to detect the liquid level of the wastewater in the wastewater tank **320** and is connected to the control unit. When the wastewater overtakes the maximum, a switch is triggered to send signal to the control unit.

The splash-proof member **323** comprises a first buffer chamber **3234** comprising first air vents **3231** at the top thereof and second air vents **3232** at the bottom thereof. The first air vents **3231** and the second air vents **3232** are disposed at different directions. Specifically, the first air vents **3231** are disposed vertically, and the second air vents **3232** are disposed transversely. The staggered arrangement of the air vents can prevent the water entering from the second air vents **3232** from entering the first air vents **3231**.

As shown in FIG. **17**, when the splash-proof member **323** is disposed in the chamber, the chamber of the wastewater tank **320** is divided into a second buffer chamber **3233** and an accommodation chamber **3235**. The second buffer chamber **3233** and the first buffer chamber **3234** communicate with each other via the first air vents **3231**. The air extraction opening **3212** communicates with the second buffer chamber **3233**. Therefore, through multiple levels of anti-splash, almost no water is pumped into the air pump **340**.

To prevent the foams splashed in the wastewater tank **320** from entering the air pump **340**, other options can also be

7

adopted. For example, the air outlet **342** of the air pump **340** communicates with the sponge roller **211** or the water channel **351**, and the water absorbed by the air pump **340** is discharged and collected by the sponge roller **211** or the water channel **351**.

The waterways of the water channel **351**, the clean water tank **310**, the water pump **330**, the wastewater tank **320**, and the air pump **340** can be independent pipes, or be integrated with other structures for simplifying the cleaner. As shown in FIGS. **3** and **10**, two sides of the base shell **120** are provided with a clean water channel, a wastewater channel **124**, and a water-discharging channel **125**. One end of the wastewater channel **124** is the wastewater outlet **1241** of the water channel **351**, and the other end thereof is a wastewater adaptor **1242** connected to the wastewater tank **320**. One end of the water-discharging channel **125** is a water inlet **1251**, and the other end thereof is a water outlet **1252** communicating with the water channel **351** or the sponge roller **211**. The clean water channel is disposed at the base shell **120** and opposite to the wastewater channel **124**, and comprises an adaptor communicating with the water pump **330** and the clean water inlet of the water channel **351**. The structure of the clean water channel is basically the same as that of the wastewater channel **124**, so no more detailed description should be provided for the clean water channel. When the side shells **130** at two sides of the base shell **120** are locked on the base shell **120**, the clean water channel, the wastewater channel **124**, and the water-discharging channel **125** constitute a sealed waterway, thus forming a complete waterway.

To further improve the cleaning effect, the sponge roller **211** can be made much thicker. As a result, when washing the sponge, much more force must be exerted by the water-squeezing element **353** on the sponge roller **211** so as to squeeze water out of the sponge. However, when the squeezing force is much large, the rotation of the sponge roller **211** may be impeded, and to maintain the normal rotation of the sponge roller **211**, much more energy must be imposed, thus causing more energy consumption.

As shown in FIGS. **19** and **20**, the sponge roller **211** comprises at least two layers, that is, an outer layer and an inner layer. The outer layer is an absorbent spongy layer **2111** and the inner layer is non-absorbent spongy layer **2112**. The non-absorbent spongy layer **2112** is made of non-absorbent sponge and is incapable of absorbing water. The absorbent spongy layer **2111** is made of absorbent sponge, and water is mainly absorbed by the outer absorbent spongy layer **2111**. Thus, to squeeze out water, only need to squeeze out water in the outer absorbent spongy layer **2111**. Because the outer absorbent spongy layer is thinner than conventional spongy layer, the external force used for squeezing out water is gentle and does not impede the rotation of the sponge roller **211**.

Conventionally, the sponge roller **211** is disposed in the base shell **120**. Two ends of conventional cylindrical sponge roller are a circular surface vertical to the ground. The left and right side walls of the base shell **120** have a certain thickness, so that the sponge roller **120** cannot stretch into the region below the left and right side walls of the base shell **120** adjacent to the sponge roller **211** due to the circular structure of the sponge roller. As a result, the regions below the left and right side walls of the base shell **120** adjacent to the sponge roller **211** cannot be cleaned.

As shown in FIGS. **5**, **6**, **19** and **20**, at least one end of the sponge roller **211** is a tapered surface along the axial direction. In this example, two tapered surfaces are provided, as shown in a and b. The tapered surfaces a and b can

8

stretch into the lower part of the left and right side walls of the base shell **120** adjacent to the sponge roller **211**, thus cleaning the ground completely.

The control unit comprises a circuit board loading a control circuit and a man-machine interaction unit. Because the control unit is not the key point of improvement of the disclosure, no detailed description is provided herein. FIG. **3** shows keys of the man-machine interaction unit.

While particular embodiments of the disclosure have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the disclosure in its broader aspects, and therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the disclosure.

The invention claimed is:

1. A sponge roller of a floor cleaner, comprising:

an outer layer; and

an inner layer, wherein:

the outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer,

the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge,

the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge, and

at least one end of the outer layer has a tapered surface along an axial direction of the sponge roller and at least one end of the inner layer has a tapered surface along the axial direction of the sponge roller.

2. The sponge roller of claim 1, wherein a radial thickness of the outer layer is smaller than a radial thickness of the inner layer.

3. The sponge roller of claim 1, wherein the tapered surface of the outer layer and the tapered surface of the inner layer are co-planar.

4. A floor cleaner, comprising:

a cleaning roller assembly, comprising:

a power unit;

a sleeve barrel; and

a sponge roller, wherein:

the sleeve barrel is sleeved on the power unit,

the sponge roller comprises an outer layer and an inner layer,

the inner layer is sleeved on the sleeve barrel,

the outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer,

the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge,

the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge,

the sleeve barrel and the sponge roller are driven by the power unit to rotate to clean the ground, and

at least one end of the outer layer has a tapered surface along an axial direction of the sponge roller and at least one end of the inner layer has a tapered surface along the axial direction of the sponge roller.

5. The floor cleaner of claim 4, wherein a radial thickness of the outer layer is smaller than a radial thickness of the inner layer.

6. The floor cleaner of claim 4, wherein the tapered surface of the outer layer and the tapered surface of the inner layer are co-planar.

7. The floor cleaner of claim 4, comprising:

a water channel assembly comprising:

a channel shell;

a filtering piece, wherein:

the channel shell is concave to form a water channel,

the water channel is disposed on a surface of the sponge roller in a seal and overturn mode, and

9

the filtering piece is laid in the water channel and faces the surface of the sponge roller;
 a seal element; and
 a water-squeezing member, wherein:
 the seal element and the water-squeezing member are disposed on opposite sides of the water channel and are pressed on a surface of the sponge roller to form a seal fitting, and
 the filtering piece is disposed in a gap between the seal element and the water-squeezing member.

8. The floor cleaner of claim 4, comprising:
 a wastewater tank, wherein:
 the wastewater tank comprises a chamber for recovery and storage of wastewater,
 the chamber is provided with a wastewater inlet, an air extraction opening, and one or more splash-proof members,
 the one or more splash-proof members are configured to divide the wastewater tank into an accommodation chamber,
 the one or more splash-proof members are configured to separate the accommodation chamber from the air extraction opening,
 the one or more splash-proof members are provided with an air vent in communication with the accommodation chamber and the air extraction opening, and
 the air vent and the air extraction opening have an offset arrangement.

9. The floor cleaner of claim 8, comprising:
 a water channel that is configured to cover the sponge roller with an airtight seal, wherein the wastewater inlet and the water channel are in communication;
 a clean water tank that is configured to store clean water;
 a clean water supply system, wherein:
 the clean water tank, the clean water supply system and the water channel are in communication with each other, and
 the clean water supply system is configured to allow the clean water in the clean water tank to flow to the water channel; and
 an air pump, wherein an inlet of the air pump and the air extraction opening of the wastewater tank are in communication.

10. The floor cleaner of claim 4, comprising:
 a wastewater tank, wherein:
 the wastewater tank comprises a chamber for recovery and storage of wastewater,
 the chamber is provided with a wastewater inlet, an air extraction opening, and one or more splash-proof members,
 the one or more splash-proof members comprise a first buffer chamber,
 the first buffer chamber is provided with a first air vent and a second air vent on an upper and a lower end respectively,
 the one or more splash-proof members are configured to divide the wastewater tank into a second buffer chamber and an accommodation chamber,
 the accommodation chamber and the first buffer chamber are in communication through the second air vent,
 the second buffer chamber and the first buffer chamber are in communication through the first air vent,
 the air extraction opening and the second buffer chamber are in communication, and

10

at least two among the air extraction opening, the first air vent, and the second air vent have an offset arrangement.

11. The floor cleaner of claim 4, wherein the power unit comprises a motor and the sleeve barrel is sleeved on the motor.

12. A floor cleaner, comprising:
 a base shell; and
 a cleaning roller assembly, wherein:
 the cleaning roller assembly comprises a motor, a sleeve barrel, and a sponge roller,
 the sleeve barrel is sleeved on the motor unit,
 the sponge roller comprises an outer layer and an inner layer,
 the inner layer is sleeved on the sleeve barrel,
 the outer layer is sleeved on the inner layer,
 the inner layer is made of non-absorbent sponge,
 the outer layer is made of absorbent sponge and is disposed on the base shell, and
 the sleeve barrel and the sponge roller are driven by the motor to rotate to clean the ground.

13. The floor cleaner of claim 12, wherein a radial thickness of the outer layer is smaller than a radial thickness of the inner layer.

14. The floor cleaner of claim 12, wherein:
 at least one end of the outer layer has a tapered surface along an axial direction of the sponge roller and at least one end of the inner layer has a tapered surface along the axial direction of the sponge roller.

15. The floor cleaner of claim 14, wherein the tapered surface of the outer layer and the tapered surface of the inner layer are co-planar.

16. The floor cleaner of claim 12, comprising:
 a water channel assembly comprising:
 a channel shell;
 a filtering piece, wherein:
 the channel shell is concave to form a water channel, the water channel is disposed on a surface of the sponge roller in a seal and overturn mode, and the filtering piece is laid in the water channel and faces the surface of the sponge roller;
 a seal element; and
 a water-squeezing member, wherein:
 the seal element and the water-squeezing member are disposed on opposite sides of the water channel and are pressed on a surface of the sponge roller to form a seal fitting, and
 the filtering piece is disposed in a gap between the seal element and the water-squeezing member.

17. The floor cleaner of claim 12, comprising:
 a wastewater tank, wherein:
 the wastewater tank comprises a chamber for recovery and storage of wastewater,
 the chamber is provided with a wastewater inlet, an air extraction opening, and one or more splash-proof members,
 the one or more splash-proof members are configured to divide the wastewater tank into an accommodation chamber,
 the one or more splash-proof members are configured to separate the accommodation chamber from the air extraction opening,
 the one or more splash-proof members are provided with an air vent in communication with the accommodation chamber and the air extraction opening, and

11

the air vent and the air extraction opening have an offset arrangement.

18. The floor cleaner of claim **17**, comprising:

a water channel that is configured to cover the sponge roller with an airtight seal, wherein the wastewater inlet and the water channel are in communication;

a clean water tank that is configured to store clean water;

a clean water supply system, wherein:

the clean water tank, the clean water supply system and the water channel are in communication with each other, and

the clean water supply system is configured to allow the clean water in the clean water tank to flow to the water channel; and

an air pump, wherein an inlet of the air pump and the air extraction opening of the wastewater tank are in communication.

19. The floor cleaner of claim **12**, comprising:

a wastewater tank, wherein:

the wastewater tank comprises a chamber for recovery and storage of wastewater,

the chamber is provided with a wastewater inlet, an air extraction opening, and one or more splash-proof members,

the one or more splash-proof members comprise a first buffer chamber,

the first buffer chamber is provided with a first air vent and a second air vent on an upper and a lower end respectively,

12

the one or more splash-proof members are configured to divide the wastewater tank into a second buffer chamber and an accommodation chamber,

the accommodation chamber and the first buffer chamber are in communication through the second air vent,

the second buffer chamber and the first buffer chamber are in communication through the first air vent,

the air extraction opening and the second buffer chamber are in communication, and

at least two among the air extraction opening, the first air vent, and the second air vent have an offset arrangement.

20. The floor cleaner of claim **19**, comprising:

a water channel that is configured to cover the sponge roller with an airtight seal, wherein the wastewater inlet and the water channel are in communication;

a clean water tank that is configured to store clean water;

a clean water supply system, wherein:

the clean water tank, the clean water supply system and the water channel are in communication with each other, and

the clean water supply system is configured to allow the clean water in the clean water tank to flow to the water channel; and

an air pump, wherein an inlet of the air pump and the air extraction opening of the wastewater tank are in communication.

* * * * *